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By

Angela Lodig

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: S-09-6

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Lewis Sharps et al.

Application No.: 10/613,115

Filed: July 3, 2003

For: METHODS FOR REPAIRING DAMAGED  
INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

Examiner: Cohen, Lee S.

Art Unit: 3739

Confirmation No.: 4213

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER  
37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98**

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Sir:

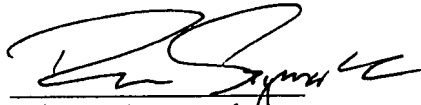
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the references that are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue there from.

These citations do not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims.

This IDS is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on the merits. Accordingly, Applicants believe that no fee is necessary. Should a fee be deemed necessary for submission of this IDS, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation in order to effectuate this filing.

Respectfully submitted  
Attorney for Applicants,



Brian E. Szymczak  
Reg. No. 47,120

Date: 7-18-2007

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CUSTOMER NO.: **21394**

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<b>PTO-1449</b>  <b>Information Disclosure Citation in an Application</b>				Application No. <b>10/613,115</b>		Applicant(s) <b>Lewis Sharps et al.</b>	
				Docket Number <b>S-09-6</b>		Group Art Unit <b>3739</b>	
						Filing Date <b>July 3, 2003</b>	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LC/	A.	3,633,425	01/11/72	Sanford	73	356	01/02/70
	B.	4,474,179	10/02/84	Koch	606	40	05/13/82
	C.	4,907,589	03/13/90	Cosman	606	34	04/29/88
	D.	5,102,410	04/7/92	Dressel	606	15	10/09/90
	E.	5,156,151	10/20/92	Imran	600	375	02/15/91
	F.	5,261,410	11/16/93	Alfano et al.	600	475	02/07/91
	G.	5,281,216	01/25/94	Kliceck	606	42	03/31/92
	H.	5,336,443	08/09/94	Eggers	252	511	02/22/93
	I.	5,374,261	12/20/94	Yoon	604	385.01	10/23/90
	J.	5,380,316	01/10/95	Aita	606	7	06/16/93
	K.	5,389,096	02/14/95	Aita	606	15	02/25/93
	L.	5,400,267	03/21/95	Denen et al.	702	59	12/08/92
	M.	5,401,272	03/28/95	Perkins	606	15	02/16/94
	N.	5,437,662	08/01/95	Nardella	606	40	02/17/94
	O.	5,554,152	09/10/96	Aita	606	7	12/20/94
	P.	5,836,875	11/17/98	Webster, Jr.	600	374	10/04/96
	Q.	5,860,974	01/19/99	Abele	606	41	02/11/97
	R.	5,891,134	04/06/99	Goble et al.	606	27	09/24/96
	S.	6,047,700	04/11/00	Eggers et al.	128	898	05/22/98
	T.	6,174,309	01/16/01	Wrublewski et al.	606	45	02/11/99
	U.	6,228,078	05/08/01	Eggers	606	32	11/25/97
	V.	6,234,178	05/08/01	Eggers	606	32	11/25/97
	W.	6,237,604	05/29/01	Burnside et al.	128	897	09/07/99
	X.	6,270,460	08/07/01	McCartan et al.	600	459	06/24/99
	Y.	6,280,441	08/28/01	Ryan	606	45	12/15/97
	Z.	6,308,089	10/23/01	von der Rur et al.	600	338	04/14/99
V	AA.	6,309,387	10/30/01	Eggers et al.	606	41	05/18/99
EXAMINER  <div style="text-align: center;">/Lee Cohen/</div>					DATE CONSIDERED <div style="text-align: center;">08/03/2007</div>		
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.							

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/LO/	A.	6,364,877	04/02/02	Goble et al.	606	34	10/16/98
	B.	6,416,509	07/09/02	Goble et al.	606	37	03/26/98
	C.	6,468,274	10/22/02	Alleyne et al.	606	32	10/11/00
	D.	6,468,275	10/22/02	Wampler et al.	606	48	06/23/00
	E.	6,482,201	11/19/02	Olsen et al.	606	41	07/27/00
	F.	6,517,498	02/11/03	Burbank et al.	600	564	07/20/00
	G.	6,578,579	06/17/03	Burnside	128	897	05/07/01
	H.	6,589,237	07/08/03	Woloszko et al.	606	41	01/19/01
	I.	6,620,156	09/16/03	Garito et al.	606	50	09/20/02
	J.	6,632,193	10/14/03	Davison et al.	604	22	01/05/00
	K.	6,632,220	10/14/03	Eggers et al.	606	41	11/12/99
	L.	6,749,604	06/15/04	Eggers et al.	606	41	03/30/00
	M.	6,749,608	06/15/04	Garito et al.	606	45	08/05/02
	N.	6,770,071	8/3/2004	Woloszko et al.	606	41	2/9/2001
	O.	6,780,178	08/24/04	Palanker et al.	600	41	05/03/02
	P.	6,780,180	08/24/04	Goble et al.	606	41	03/08/00
	Q.	6,802,842	10/12/04	Ellman et al.	606	45	01/02/03
	R.	6,837,887	1/4/2005	Woloszko et al.	606	41	1/25/2002
	S.	6,837,888	1/4/2005	Ciarrocca et al.	606	41	2/25/2002
	T.	6,920,883	07/26/05	Bessette et al.	128	898	11/08/02
	U.	6,929,640	08/16/05	Underwood et al.	606	32	02/24/00
	V.	6,949,096	09/27/05	Davison et al.	606	41	01/21/03
	W.	6,960,204	11/01/05	Eggers et al.	606	32	07/16/03
	X.	6,974,453	12/13/05	Woloszko et al.	606	41	04/20/01
	Y.	6,991,631	01/31/06	Woloszko et al.	606	41	02/13/03
	Z.	7,004,941	02/28/06	Tvinnereim et al.	606	41	11/07/02
	AA.	7,041,102	05/09/06	Truckai et al.	606	51	05/22/03
✓	BB.	7,070,596	07/04/06	Woloszko et al.	606	41	10/03/00
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/LC/	A.	7,090,672	08/15/06	Underwood et al.	606	41	07/02/03
	B.	7,094,215	08/22/06	Davison et al.	604	22	03/28/03
	C.	7,104,986	09/12/06	Hovda et al.	606	32	05/12/03
	D.	7,131,969	11/07/06	Hovda et al.	606	45	05/01/00
	E.	7,169,143	01/30/07	Eggers et al.	606	32	10/20/05
	F.	7,179,255	02/20/07	Lettice et al.	606	32	12/20/00
	G.	7,186,234	03/06/07	Dahla et al.	604	22	02/05/02
	H.	7,192,428	03/20/07	Eggers et al.	606	41	03/20/03
	I.	7,201,750	04/10/07	Eggers et al.	606	41	05/18/99
	J.	7,217,268	05/15/07	Eggers et al.	606	32	06/24/03
	K.	RE33,925	05/12/92	Bales et al.	606	48	12/08/88
	L.	4,573,448	3/4/86	Kambin	606	170	10/5/1983
	M.	5,207,684	5/4/93	Nobles	606	108	4/13/1992
	N.	5,571,189	11/5/96	Kuslich	623	17.12	5/20/1994
	O.	5,877,289	3/2/99	Thorpe et al.	530	387.7	6/7/1995
	P.	6,093,187	7/25/00	Lecuyer	606	45	3/31/1998
	Q.	6,146,380	11/14/00	Racz et al.	606	41	1/9/1998
	R.	6,176,857	1/23/01	Ashley	606	32	9/22/1998
	S.	6,540,741	4/1/03	Underwood et al.	606	32	10/4/1999
	T.	6,679,886	1/20/04	Weikel et al.	606	79	8/28/2001
	U.	6,746,451	6/8/04	Middleton et al.	606	79	6/1/2001
	V.	6,761,718	7/13/04	Madsen	606	50	9/6/2001
	W.	7,108,696	9/19/06	Daniel et al.	606	41	9/22/2003
	X.	2003/0014047	1/16/2003	Woloszko et al.	606	41	6/18/2002
	Y.	2002/0095151	07/18/02	Dahla et al.	606	41	02/05/02
	Z.	2003/0013986	01/16/03	Saadat	600	549	07/12/01
✓	AA.	2003/0028189	02/06/03	Woloszko et al.	604	045	06/27/02
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/LC/	A.	2003/0088245	05/08/03	Woloszko et al.	606	041	11/04/02
	B.	2003/0158545	08/21/03	Hovda et al.	606	032	02/25/03
	C.	2003/0171743	09/11/03	Tasto et al.	606	032	02/21/03
	D.	2003/0208194	11/06/03	Hovda et al.	606	041	09/26/01
	E.	2003/0208196	11/06/03	Stone	606	041	05/03/02
	F.	2003/0212395	11/13/03	Woloszko et al.	606	032	03/05/03
	G.	2003/0212396	11/13/03	Eggers et al.	606	041	03/14/03
	H.	2004/0024399	02/05/04	Sharps et al.	606	032	07/08/03
	I.	2004/0049180	03/11/04	Sharps et al.	606	032	05/13/03
	J.	2004/0054366	03/18/04	Davison et al.	606	045	09/12/03
	K.	2004/0127893	07/01/04	Hovda	606	041	12/11/03
	L.	2004/0153057	08/05/04	Davison	600	410	11/13/03
	M.	2004/0186469	09/23/04	Woloszko et al.	606	041	02/05/04
	N.	2004/0230190	11/18/04	Dahla et al.	604	041	03/12/04
	O.	2005/0004634	01/06/05	Hovda et al.	606	041	07/29/04
	P.	2005/0010205	01/13/05	Hovda et al.	606	032	03/12/04
	Q.	2005/0119650	06/02/05	Sanders et al.	424	426	10/20/04
	R.	2005/0131402	06/16/05	Ciarrocca et al.	600	450	01/03/05
	S.	2005/0187543	08/28/05	Underwood et al.	606	041	04/25/02
	T.	2005/0234439	10/20/05	Underwood et al.	606	032	03/25/05
	U.	2005/0251134	11/10/05	Woloszko et al.	606	032	05/09/05
	V.	2005/0261754	11/24/05	Woloszko et al.	606	032	04/12/05
	W.	2005/0288665	12/29/05	Woloszko et al.	606	041	06/24/05
	X.	2006/0036237	02/16/06	Davison et al.	606	041	06/03/05
	Y.	2006/0095031	05/04/06	Ormsby, T.	606	034	09/22/05
	Z.	2006/0129145	06/15/06	Ormsby et al.	606	041	10/11/05
	AA.	2006/0178670	08/10/06	Woloszko et al.	606	048	01/17/06
✓	BB.	2006/0189971	08/24/06	Eggers et al.	606	032	11/23/05
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LC/	A.	2006/0253117	11/09/06	Hovda et al.	128	898	03/09/06
↓	B.	2006/0259025	11/16/06	Dahla	607	108	05/16/05
↓	C.	2007/001088	01/11/07	Dahla	606	041	07/06/05

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
/LC/	D.	05/000434	12/20/06	NL	---	---	X	
↓	E.	01/87154	5/18/01	WO	A61B	5/05	X	
↓	F.	02/36028	5/10/02	WO	A61B	18/12	X	
↓	G.	05/125287	12/29/05	WO	A61B	18/00	X	

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NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS			
		DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)	DATE
/LC/	H.	Malis, L., "New Trends in Microsurgery and Applied Technology," <i>Advanced Technology in Neurosurgery</i> , pp. 1-16	1988
↓	I.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Investigation on the Interaction Plasma-Bone Tissue", E-MRS Spring Meeting, 1 pg	06/18-21/2002
↓	J.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Biomedical Applications of Plasmas", Tutorial presented prior to the 55 <sup>th</sup> Gaseous Electronics Conference in Minneapolis, MN, 41 pgs	10/14/02
↓	K.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Plasma Interactions with Living Cells", Eindhoven University of Technology, 1 pg	2002
↓	L.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Superficial Treatment of Mammalian Cells using Plasma Needle", J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 26, pp. 2908-2913	11/19/03
↓	M.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Plasma Needle", Eindhoven University of Technology, 1 pg	11/28/03
↓	N.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Plasma Physicists Move into Medicine", Physicsweb, 1 pg	11/2003
↓	O.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Plasma Treated Tissue Engineered Skin to Study Skin Damage", Biomechanics and Tissue Engineering, Materials Technology, 1 pg	2003
↓	P.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Plasma Treatment of Dental Cavities: A Feasibility Study", IEEE Transaction on Plasma Science, Vol. 32, No. 4, pp. 1540-1542	08/2004

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<b>NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>				
		<b>DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)</b>		<b>DATE</b>
/LC/	A.	Stoffels, E. et al., "The Effects of UV Irradiation and Gas Plasma Treatment on Living Mammalian Cells and Bacteria: A Comparative Approach", IEEE Transaction on Plasma Science, Vol. 32, No. 4, pp. 1544-1550		08/2004
	B.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Electrical and Optical Characterization of the Plasma Needle", New Journal of Physics 6, pp. 1-14		10/28/04
	C.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Where Plasma Meets Plasma", Eindhoven University of Technology, 23 pgs		2004
	D.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Gas Plasma effects on Living Cells", Physica Scripta, T107, pp. 79-82		2004
	E.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Plasma Treatment of Mammalian Vascular Cells: A Quantitative Description", IEEE Transaction on Plasma Science, Vol. 33, No. 2, pp. 771-775		04/2005
	F.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Deactivation of Escherichia Coli by the Plasma Needle", J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 38, pp. 1716-1721		05/20/05
	G.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Development of a Gas Plasma Catheter for Gas Plasma Surgery", XXVIII ICPIG, Eindhoven University of Technology, pp. 18-22		07/2005
	H.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Development of a Smart Positioning Sensor for the Plasma Needle", Plasma Sources Sci. Technol. 15, pp. 582-589		06/27/06
	I.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Killing of S. Mutans Bacteria Using a Plasma Needle at Atmospheric Pressure, IEEE Transaction on Plasma Science, Vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 1317-1324		08/2006
	J.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Plasma-Needle Treatment of Substrates with Respect to Wettability and Growth of Excherichia Coli and Streptococcus Mutans", IEEE Transaction on Plasma Science, Vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 1325-1330		08/2006
	K.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Reattachment and Apoptosis after Plasma-Needle Treatment of Cultured Cells", IEEE Transaction on Plasma Science, Vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 1331-1336		08/2006
	L.	Stoffels, E. et al., "UV Excimer Lamp Irradiation of Fibroblasts: The Influence on Antioxidant Homostasis", IEEE Transaction on Plasma Science, Vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 1359-1364		08/2006
	M.	Stoffels, E. et al., "Plasma Needle for In Vivo Medical Treatment: Recent Developments and Perspectives", Plasma Sources Sci. Technol. 15, pp. S169-S180		10/06/06
	N.	Valleylab, Inc. "Valleylab Part Number 945 100 102 A" Surgistat Service Manual, pgs 1-46		7/1988
✓	O.	AESCULAP, "Flexible endoscope", Micro, Neuro and Spine surgery, 3 pgs		No Date
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